Budget for road safety

1016. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has forwarded any proposal to the Ministry of Finance demanding increase in Budget for road safety etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is response of the Ministry of Finance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI)]: (a) to (c) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has not forwarded any proposal demanding increase in budget for road safety to Ministry of Finance. However, provision in budget for road safety in the year 2002-03 has been increased to Rs. 30.00 crores as against the budget provision of Rs. 10.34 crores in the year 2001-02.

Shimla-Chirgaon road

1017. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Shimla-Chirgaon road as National Highway keeping in view of its importance because this whole region is hilly and rural and the above region is very important from the tourism point of view and also this region generates power and produces fruits and vegetables and thus fulfil all the norms set by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to fulfil the pending demand of the people of that region during the year 2003-04; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI)]: (a) to (c) No proposal has been received to upgrade Shimla-Chirgaon road as a National Highway. However, all proposals for declaration of new National Highways received from State Governments have been returned to them for review based on revised criteria for declaration of

new National Highway. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to funds constraint. Government may however consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Maintenance and Improvement of National Highways in Assam

1018. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan and progress made on repair, improvement, widening and strengthening of NHs in Assam during the current financial year and the sectoral outlays proposed for the Tenth Plan indicating against each road including four laning;

(b) the status of NH funds released during the last three years;

(c) the progress made in construction of approach road to Bogibeel bridge construction on either side of Brahmaputra in Assam with indication of alignments finalized both way; and

(d) the details of the steps taken and target set to fill the pits and potholes on NH 52 and NH 37 to make them fit for human?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI)]: (a) Improvement of National Highways in Assam is done by three agencies viz. the Assam PWD, the Border Roads Organization (BRO) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). During the current year, for repair, improvement, widening and strengthening of National Highways in the State, an amount of Rs. 132.74 Crores has been allocated and against this, an expenditure of Rs. 60.64 Crores has been incurred up to October 2002. It is too early to indicate the allocation for the remaining 4 years of the 10th Plan for Assam State. Four laning of 728 km of National Highways in Assam under East West Corridor of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) is targeted to be completed by December, 2007.